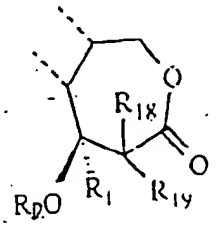
camptothecin analog with a 7-ring member ß-hydroxy lactone ring of the formula



wherein R_1 is selected from the group consisting of alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkenyl and alkynyl of 2 to 6 carbon atoms, haloalkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, alkoxy alkyl of 2 to 12 carbon atoms and alkylthioalkyl of 2 to 12 carbon atoms, R_p is hydrogen or an easily cleavable group, R_{18} and R_{19} are individually selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, OH and alkyl and alkoxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms and its non-toxic, pharmaceutically acceptable salts.--

--19. The method of claim 18 wherein R_1 is ethyl.--

--20. The method of claim 18 wherein R_{18} and R_{19} are hydrogen.--

--21. The method of claim 19 wherein R_{18} and R_{19} are hydrogen.--

--22. The method of claim 18 wherein R_p is hydrogen.--

--23. The method of claim 19 wherein R_p is hydrogen.--

--24. The method of claim 18 wherein the camptothecin analog is(+)-5-ethyl-9,10-difluoro-5-hydroxy-4,5,13,15-tetrahydro-1H,3H-oxepino[3',4':6,7] indolizino[1,2-b] quinoline-3,15-dione or (+)-1-[9-chloro-5-ethyl-5-hydroxy-10-methyl-3,15-dioxo-4,5,13,15-